



Our Mission

The mission of the Preservation of the Force and Family Task Force (POTFF-TF) is to build and implement a holistic approach to address the pressure on our force. The POTFF-TF will identify and implement innovative, valuable solutions across the USSOCOM Enterprise aimed at improving the short and long-term well-being of our Special Operations Forces (SOF) warriors and their families.

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"It is a moral imperative that we do all that we can to preserve the force and care for their families. Therefore, to lessen the strain, we are seeking improvements in the predictability of SOF schedules--training, education, deployment and rest. USSOCOM must ensure our SOF warriors and their families are properly cared for and that we work to help them reduce the stress they face related to high operational tempos. Everyone in the fight has been significantly changed by their experiences. Improving predictability, providing the treatment our troops need and reducing the stigma associated with asking for help is the top priority for all USSOCOM leaders."

~ADM McRaven

Director's Emphasis

The Preservation of the Force and Family (POTFF) is currently focused on creating an effective Engagement Strategy to provide clear and concise messaging across the SOF Enterprise, Joint Staff (JS), Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Services on our mission and the efforts of USSOCOM in providing support to our mission.

Our purpose is to educate and communicate to Key Leaders within the JS, OSD, Services, and the SOF Enterprise the mission and intent of the POTFF. This will be effective as we collaborate and communicate the POTFF intent, importance and process to the appropriate stakeholders to share best practices and ultimately create processes we can use to measure the effectiveness of programs that support the readiness of the Special Operations Force (SOF) and their families.

The POTFF was charged with building and implementing a holistic approach to address the pressure on the force and families in order to maintain and improve readiness, operational effectiveness and the immediate and long-term well-being of SOF. We are taking this task very seriously.

Moving forward we will develop a framework for planning and assessing programs; implementing changes and improving as the programs mature. All POTFF-sponsored programs and initiatives must have logical plans that include measureable objectives, program evaluation methods, reliable measures of effectiveness and impact. USSOCOM views these aspects of the POTFF efforts as fundamental.

We have been busy answering RFI's on MILCON for HP facilities and the Legislative Proposals. It is very important that we are continuously tracking and reaching out to the Services and seeking ways to measure the unique needs of our SOF community and families.

We are actively looking for ways to partner with the Services, Interagency, DOD and Science and Technology to leverage programs and innovations to provide support and resources relevant to the readiness and resilience of the SOF Enterprise. By building an effective and thorough Engagement Strategy, the POTFF will incorporate valuable input from key stakeholders, ensuring transparency and overall program success.

The USSOCOM POTFF Enterprise Contract, is in support of the Component's Human Performance Programs (HPP) and Psychological Performance Program (PPP) with 512 HPP and PPP Professionals across the enterprise.

HPP consist of Human Performance Managers/Advisors, Strength and Conditioning Coaches, Physical Therapists, Athletic Trainers, Performance Dietitians, Data Analysts, and Sports Psychologists.

PPP consist of Clinical Psychologists, Operations Psychologists, Psych Technicians, Nurse Case Managers and Social Workers.

Growth is occurring incrementally, and because SOCOM has a centralized, indefinite delivery and quantity contract, manning levels may be adjusted relatively easily depending on utilization, efficacy and availability of funds.

The current human performance and behavioral health contracts are valued at approximately \$34M annually and employ 230 personnel.

Through consolidation under a centralized contract, we estimate a \$46M dollar savings over the life of the contract.

By embedding trusted and skilled professionals down to our tactical formation and leveraging state-of-the-art practices, programs and equipment, we hope to optimize the performance of our force and reinforce the well-being of their families. We foresee these initiatives becoming an integral part of our approach to human capital development and preservation.

Human Performance

- The HPP is currently working to create a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the University of Pittsburg to develop metrics, improve collaboration and quantify the programs that are increasing the capability of our Warfighters. Ideally this will reduce their need for disability, reducing future costs to the VA.
- Construction and equipping of state-of-the-art HP facilities across the components is in process.
- Mil Mentor program ??

Spiritual Performance

- SOCOM is currently increasing the number of active duty unit ministry teams to embed in the units.
- JSOU will be conducting the second SOF specific training to all incoming Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants.
- To provide greater availability of the Prepare and Enrich Program six train-the-trainer courses have been contracted to allow Chaplains to train facilitators. The first is being conducted in August.

Psychological Performance

- To date 76 of the 115 contracted providers have assumed their jobs.
- Actively engaging with leadership to ensure all is being done to reduce the stigma associated with seeking care.
- An additional contract with the American Association of Suicideology has been let to provide suicide prevention training to all contracted behavioral health providers across the SOF Enterprise

Social Performance

- LP077 is now part of the draft 2013 NDAA Section 554 and on its way to becoming law. This will enable the CDRUSSOCOM to leverage MFP-11 funds in support of family programs.
- Working to develop ways to evaluate programs that are designed to build and strengthen Family resilience programs.
- Gaps between Service-provided programs and SOF uniqueness are being identified for bridging solutions.
- The Family Readiness waiver has been approved. This will allow USSOCOM to hire Family Support Coordinators' (FSCs) across the Enterprise. These FSC's will fill a critical capability gap that will provide enhanced two-way communication from the commands on services and programs that support resilience and readiness of the SOF enterprise.
- LP263 has been deferred until next year. Approval of the LP will allow SOCOM the ability to accept public charitable contributions to benefit the resilience of service members and their families.
- OSD is working to source additional MFLCs to support SOF. There is currently no plan to switch respective vendors staffing SOCOM MFLC assignments or to end assignments before their current contracted end date. Hiring local MFLCs is preferred whenever possible but this does not preclude a non-local counselor filling the assignment if a local one is not available. All MFLCs supporting SOCOM must have the requisite security clearance and none arrive on assignment with a "travel budget" as all travel must be authorized by OSD.
- We currently are in the process of establishing an MOA between SOCOM, USDA and NIFA, similar to what DoD has, this will allow SOCOM to partner with the over 200 Land Grant Universities that have programs geared towards supporting Military and their families (retreats, kids camps, research, child care, etc....). VERY EXCITING!
- We are working with the J3 to create a Spouse Identity Management Training Program (IDM) to provide education to our families on how to maintain awareness with all the media surrounding SOF and stress importance of maintaining awareness and discretion on discussions and internet postings on association with SOF and SOF missions. The VCDR has authorized the POTFF-PERSTEMPO Program Managers to hire the full complement of 194 contractors with the condition of implementing a plan to significantly reduce the number of contractors prior to September 2014. Furthermore, he directed the Program Managers to ensure priority effort is geared toward training military and government civilians on use of DefenseReady PERSTEMPO effective immediately. This is part of a thoughtful and sound transition plan from hefty reliance on contract support to a more poised methodology where the majority of labor to operate DefenseReady PERSTEMPO is provided by government personnel vice contractors.

USSOCOM COMPONENT UPDATES



US Army Special Operations Command

COL Blue:



Joint Special Operations Command

LTC Dave Leach:



Naval Special Warfare Command

Mr. Steve Gilmore:

Air Force Special Operations Command



Col Jacqueline "Pebbles" Powell:



Marine Special Operations Command

Mr. Stephen Lambert

Components! The following items are still needed for the POTTF-TF to support your programs and answer RFI's.

- DCR Annexes (Thank you AFSOC!)

Hot Topics

- The POTTF MOP/MOE working group spent 2 1/5 days putting together a plan to establish metrics to support the Physiological and Human Performance Programs.
- Gifts—Post-9/11 Style— On 16 May the SECDEF approved an exception from the general prohibition on acceptance of gifts from outside sources for E6 and below. E6 and below are now authorized to accept gifts, other than cash, from charitable and Veterans Service tax exempt organizations. As defined by section 501(C)(3), 19, and 23 and title 26 U.S.C. There are some restrictions on this exception, so it's a good idea to run such gifts by your JAG and the Care Coalition. **NO SOLICITING!**

Recent Engagements

- Military Community and Family Policy
- Health Affairs
- MEDCOM
- Army Surgeon General
- Chiefs of Chaplains
- Joint Staff
- JSOFSEA
- USEP
- TSOC CoS
- Science and Technology (DARPA/IARAPA)
- Senior Spouses
- Staffers HASC, SASC, HAC-D, and SAC-D
- Interagency Representatives
- Senators (AL, IL, NH, NC, VA)

Engagements

Upcoming Engagements

- S&T AFHSC, DCoE, APHC
- Air Force Health Affairs
- DMDC
- Army Talks
- Air Force Talks



Special Operations Command

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<https://www.facebook.com/ussocom>

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"We have to make sure that everyone understands that the true coward is anyone that tries to talk you out of getting help. The true bravery is stepping forward and raising your hand and saying, 'I'm having a problem. SOF is unique in that people perceive SOF members as having no weaknesses ... there are supposed to be no chinks in your armor. At the end of the day that's an absolute fallacy because no matter whether you're a type-A personality or a type-C personality, you're still a human being. A human being only has X amount of capacity for coping with the things that go on in their life, both at home and while deployed, which for some is nearing 11 years of war.'"

~CSM Faris